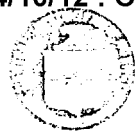


The Director
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

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Exclusive Registry

78-5730

9 JUN 1978

OLC #73-1543A

Honorable Edward P. Boland, Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am forwarding an unclassified study on Soviet propaganda as a follow-up to the request made by Representative Ashbrook at the 20 April 1978 hearing on CIA and the media. It is my understanding that the Committee may wish to include this study in the hearing transcript.

Because the study is unclassified, it deals only superficially with certain aspects of Soviet propaganda operations, most particularly with the covert activities of the KGB. I believe, however, that it will prove a useful primer on the scope and magnitude of the Soviet propaganda apparatus as well as the cynical disregard for truth which characterizes Soviet propaganda operations.

The study--as its last paragraph indicates--covers Soviet propaganda directed against American interests from abroad, but does not concern itself with Soviet propaganda operations conducted within the United States, as this is outside CIA's purview. You may wish to consider requesting the appropriate agency to prepare such a study. As our paper suggests, there are indications that Soviet propaganda activities against the United States will increase in future.

I request that if the Committee does intend to make this study a matter of public record, we consult beforehand regarding the appropriateness of CIA attribution.

/s/ Stansfield Turner
STANSFIELD TURNER

Enclosure

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SECRET

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5 JUN 1978

Executive Registry

78-5/30

OLC #78-543

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director for Operations

FROM:

Chief, Covert Action Staff

SUBJECT: Unclassified Study of Soviet Propaganda Activities

1. Action Requested: That you release the attached unclassified study on Soviet propaganda activities to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI).

2. Background: Following the 20 April 1978 hearing of the HPSCI Sub-committee on Oversight regarding CIA and the media, Representative John Ashbrook (Rep., Ohio) requested that CIA prepare an unclassified study of Soviet propaganda activities for insertion in the Congressional Record. This request apparently grew out of a feeling on the part of certain members that while the HPSCI had thoroughly investigated CIA relations with the media, it had perhaps been remiss in failing to acquaint itself with propaganda activities directed against the United States.

The attached study has been prepared by Covert Action Staff and coordinated with appropriate components of SE Division and with Deputy NIO/USSR-EE. It is based largely on overt material, although a number of its conclusions and generalizations have been influenced by clandestine reporting. Because of its unclassified nature, certain aspects of the study are somewhat superficial, particularly those dealing with the clandestine activities of the KGB. Nevertheless, we believe the study is sufficiently comprehensive to serve as a useful primer on Soviet propaganda operations and policy. The introduction to the study offers follow-up briefings on a classified level.

Attached to the study is an Annex which provides details on the Soviet campaign against the "neutron bomb."

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Also attached is an Agency-produced unclassified handbook on Communist Fronts.

You will note that the study contains a summary of the OTRAG story, in which you were previously interested, with a vague reference to the fact that it appeared in the Western press.

A forwarding letter to the HPSCI chairman is attached to the study for your signature. The letter calls attention to the last paragraph of the study, which points out that our survey does not cover Soviet propaganda operations within the United States, as being outside the purview of CIA, and suggests that the appropriate agency be commissioned to prepare a separate study on this topic.

The letter also suggests that if the Committee desires to publish the study, they consult with the Agency in advance. This would provide us with the opportunity to determine whether the study should be publicly attributed to CIA, which might be particularly important if the Committee made any changes in its contents.

3. Recommendation: It is recommended that you sign the letter forwarding the attached study to the HPSCI.

Attachment, a/s



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CONCUR:

John H. Stein

5 JUN 1978

A Deputy Director for Operations

Date

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Date

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SUBJECT: Unclassified Study on Soviet Propaganda Activities

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DDO/C/CAS/PP 2 June 1978)

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